

# THE INDEPENDENT

VOL. XII. ELIZABETH CITY, N. C. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1919. NO. 585

## NEW ZEALANDER SEES MILLIONS IN LOWLANDS

Joseph Dixon Will Try New Zealand Flax Culture On Lowlands Near Elizabeth City

The United States is importing annually about \$50,000,000 worth of sisal hemp and manila fiber from Yucatan, the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia, and there is one New Zealander who believes all the fiber required by the rope, bag and twine industry in this country can be grown on the lowlands of eastern North Carolina. Joseph Dixon, late of New Zealand, but at present a resident of Tampa, Fla. was in Elizabeth City yesterday prospecting for a small tract of lowland upon which to start an experiment in the propagation of New Zealand flax, technically known as phormium tenax.

In an interview granted this newspaper yesterday Mr. Dixon said that he had found the soil and climate of this part of the United States not unlike that of his native home, New Zealand. One of the greatest industries in New Zealand is the cultivation of New Zealand flax, from which rope, twine, etc. is made. The fiber of this flax is worth \$200 a ton. An acre of lowland will in five years produce 100 tons of green flax from which five tons of the fiber can be obtained.

The phormium tenax or New Zealand flax requires little labor. The seed are sown in lowlands and nature does the rest. About five years are required for the flax to attain its maximum growth. It is then ten or twelve feet high and ready for harvesting. It is cut down with heavy knives, carried to the mill and stripped for its fiber. The stripping mill requires an investment of only a few hundred dollars and ten common laborers can strip many thousands of pounds a day. For five years, from planting to harvesting, the flax requires no attention whatever.

And after the crop has been harvested, the roots remain, putting out stalks that will yield another harvest in five years.

Mr. Dixon has brought seed of the New Zealand flax with him and is expecting another lot of seed from New Zealand within the next few weeks. He is not trying to organize a stock company to do big and wonderful things, has nothing to sell, and only wants to purchase or lease about ten acres of lowland to start with. He can tell in a year whether the flax will thrive in this soil and climate. He tried it out in Tampa, Fla. It took root and started growing alright, but the intense tropical heat killed it off after the tender stalks got a few inches above the ground.

Mr. Dixon in company with E. M. Walker, of Currituck C. H., left Elizabeth City yesterday afternoon to look at lowlands in the vicinity of Snowden station.

If you like a story full of pep read The Cow Puncher which begins in this issue.

### NO EXAGGERATION

I do not make exaggerated statements about my work. Very remarkable results often follow the correction of bad vision by properly fitted glasses. It does not follow that bad eyes are responsible for all ills and that the fitting of eye glasses is a panacea for every ailment. My special claim to your patronage is based upon my long experience coupled with my unusual facilities for testing the vision, grinding the lenses and fitting the glasses on the premises. Upon investigation you will find that I can give the same service you would expect to find in a metropolitan city.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY  
Optometrist  
Bradford Bldg.  
Phone 999

## TO ORGANIZE FOR HIGHER COTTON

Branch of American Cotton Assn. To be Formed Here To-Morrow

Farmers, business men, bankers and others interested in cotton will attempt the organization of a branch of the American Cotton Association in this county Saturday, Oct. 4. Plans for the organization are in the hands of County Agent G. W. Falls who is anxious for all the interested parties to meet him in this city to-morrow.

The organization to be effected here to-morrow will be followed by a county wide membership drive. The North Carolina Division of the American Cotton Association will have speakers at the Riverside Community Fair in this county on Oct. 14 and at the Fork's Community Fair on Oct. 15. A county wide mass meeting of farmers, bankers and business men will be held in this city on Thursday, Oct. 16, by which time it is planned to have every cotton farmer in the county enrolled in the organization.

The primary object of the cotton association is to enable the farmer to hold his cotton till he gets his price for it. The objects are otherwise stated in the following language:

1. Protecting the interests of the cotton producer and improving his condition.
  2. Promoting the economic regulation of cotton production so that the supply shall be adjusted to demand, and so that the producer will not be compelled to sell his product at less than a fair and reasonable price.
  3. Promoting intelligent diversifications of crops, and developing markets for such crops other than cotton, as may be profitably grown and raised.
  4. Improving and enlarging present existing warehouse facilities, and securing additional facilities, so that the producer may carry his crop at the minimum expense and physical damage, and at the maximum security and financiality.
  5. Broadening the market for raw cotton, and enlarging the uses of cotton and cotton goods.
  6. Improving and increasing transportation facilities.
  7. Collecting information as to both domestic and foreign consumption of cotton, the state of trade, the extent of acreage, supply and condition of crop, and all other information of practical interest to the cotton industry, and disseminating facts and data through the several sub-organizations to every member of every community, together with directions and suggestions as to what course to pursue, from all viewpoints, in order to secure the very best results.
  8. Maintaining a unified and solid effort for retaining permanently a fair and equitable price for cotton.
  9. Unifying and coordinating all the cotton interests of the South, in the interests of the south, in the interest of a greater business South.
  10. Doing collectively all and everything that may be conducive to the stability and profitability of the cotton producing industry.
- B. To develop the temporary organization, growing out of the membership campaign into a permanent American Cotton Association, with a division in each state, a subdivision in each county, and a still further subdivision in each township of the 72 cotton growing counties of North Carolina, cooperating with similar organizations in each of the cotton growing Southern States.

### U. S. GOVT. CONDEMNS HAND SHAKING HABIT

Could Have Gotten The Idea From Saunders Himself When Flu Raged Last Winter

A laugh went up from all over the state last winter when W. O. Saunders, then in the North Carolina General Assembly, gave out an interview in which he declared that there should be a law to abolish the unsanitary, filthy, disease-carrying habit of hand-shaking. As usual Saunders was just a little ahead of the times. The country at large is now beginning to recognize the hand-shaking evil. The United States Sanitary Corps at Washington has recently come out with the statement that all great epidemics have been brought about by and fed upon hand-shaking. The Philadelphia Press, one of the most wide-awake newspapers in Philadelphia, is running a daily symposium of articles by prominent public men condemning the practice of hand-shaking. And so the laugh is not on Saunders.

In justice to North Carolina it should be stated that not every one laughed when the Saunders' attack on hand-shaking went to the state press last winter. The State Board of Health took note of the articles and officials of that organization personally thanked Mr. Saunders for his timely attack upon a flagrant evil.

But woe unto the politicians when the public recognizes the hand-shaking evil.

## Methodist Throngs Attend Ground Breaking Celebration



METHODIST throngs attended the Ground Breaking Celebration of the First M. E. Church South in this city last Friday, Sept. 26. The accompanying photo gives some idea of the crowds and some idea also of the extent of the big lot, corner of Road and Church streets, where the First Church is building an edifice that will cost not less than \$100,000. It has been stated that the design for the new church calls for the best equipped church in Southern Methodism.

## "OOSH," SAID COL. MEEKINS

Hinton Brothers Grew Bellicose After Hearing Speeches in Will Case

The suit of the John Cleveland Hinton heirs to break the will of the late John Louis Hinton of Pasquotank county, which consumed all of last week's term of the Superior Court in this city, resulted in a mistrial. This is the second time a Pasquotank jury has failed to agree on this sensational case. Attorneys for the plaintiffs say that the case will be brought into court again.

The case went to the jury Saturday evening, Sept. 27 and the jury was not discharged until 3 o'clock Monday afternoon, after the foreman had announced that the jury could not reach an agreement. Three jurors are said to have voted in favor of a verdict for the defendants, the wealthy Hinton brothers, who inherited the vast estate of their father, while the children of their deceased brother were left destitute.

The case brought out much sensational testimony bearing upon the queer ways of the late John Louis Hinton and gave the attorneys for the plaintiffs much rich material for their speeches to the jury. The Hinton brothers were visibly annoyed by the speeches of Col. I. M. Meekins and Hon. J. C. B. Ehringhaus. After court adjourned Saturday evening, Lucian Hinton approached Col. Meekins and told him to remove his glasses.

Col. Meekins wanted to know what moved Mr. Hinton to this unusual request. Mr. Hinton replied that he understood that there was a heavy penalty for hitting a man with glasses on. Col. Meekins removed his glasses and Hinton struck at him. Col. Meekins dodged the blow. Hinton struck a second time, again missed his mark, also lost his equilibrium and fell sprawling to the sidewalk.

"Oosh!" said the Colonel, when Mr. Hinton picked himself up.

No other blows were passed, Col. Meekins satisfying himself by asking Mr. Hinton if he didn't feel like a fool?

Col. Meekins in his speech to the jury Saturday afternoon had galled the Hinton severely. At one point in his speech he held their bachelorhood up to scorn. Pointing to the women plaintiffs in the action, he said: "It would not trade one of those noble women, mothers of children, making the world a better place to live in, for all the beagles between here and Newfoundland." Newland is the home of the Hinton.

In meantime it seems that Ernest Hinton, another of the brothers, was hunting Mr. Ehringhaus and demanding an "apology or satisfaction." He is said to have gotten neither.

The jurors in the Hinton case were Wm. Randolph, S. J. Bateman, E. L. Rodgers, M. S. Cartwright, B. F. Mercer, James B. Williams, N. H. Caroon, J. L. Davis, Thos. Garrett, R. L. Jackson, A. J. Jennings and M. W. Berry.

### E. W. BROWNE RIGHT THERE WITH GENUINE LYNNHAVENS

North Carolina visitors to Norfolk this fall and winter will find E. W. Browne's Lynnhaven oyster bar doing business at the same old stand, 113 Washington St., opposite D. Pender's Grocery. Browne's is a favorite resort of hundreds of North Carolinians who have a fondness for real Lynnhaven oysters. Browne handles the real Lynnhaven, much of his stock coming from his own beds. He serves them raw on the half shell, cooked in any style, or will supply you by the quart or by the barrel.

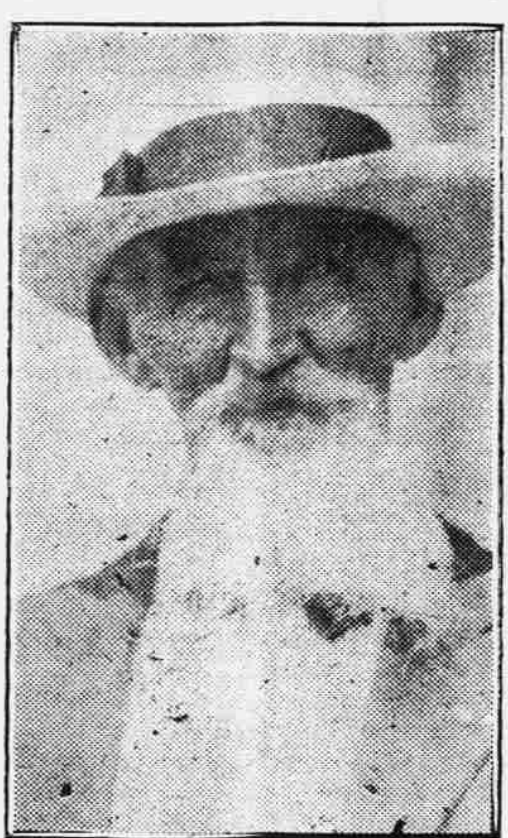
## PROMINENT FIGURES IN THE FIRST M. E. CHURCH GROUND BREAKING CELEBRATION LAST FRIDAY



HERE they are the three more prominent figures in the Ground Breaking exercises of the First M. E. Church which was held in this city last Friday. To the left is Rev. J. M. Ormond, the sunny pastor of the church; to the right is the Presiding Elder, Rev. R. H. Willis; looming large in the center is that towering personality, Bishop U. V. W. Darlington. The photo is by H. C. Mann of Norfolk.

## MAKING GOOD ON A FARM AT AGE OF 69

Single Handed He Carried on 140 Acres During the War



J. W. MACKEY

J. W. Mackey, of Moyock, Currituck County, is a gray-headed example of just how independent a North Carolina farmer may be of the labor problem, and Mr. Mackey is 69 years old.

When his only son was taken in the draft in 1917 and when war industries had drained his section of common labor, Mr. Mackey was left with a farm of 140 cleared acres, and only himself to work it.

But with a four horse-gang plow and other labor saving machinery he set to work to make a crop by himself. He got 30 acres of corn, 60 acres of soy beans, eight acres of wheat and 7 1/2 acres of rye. He made good on every acre. Only once did he find himself in a cramp; that was when he came to harvest his wheat. He had to have help then and he got a woman. He and the woman saved the wheat. He repeated the experience again this year and single handed has carried on his farming successfully, having paid out only \$1.25 for labor to date. Recently his son has been discharged from the army and Mr. Mackey will have help in harvesting his crops this fall. He is none the worse off for his experience and, in spite of his 69 years, is pink and frisky. The accompanying photo is from a snapshot by W. O. Saunders.

### Who Owns the Ring?

That an engagement ring is no longer the property of a young lady who breaks her engagement is the recent verdict of an English court. The girl in the case had broken off the engagement, but decided to keep the tokens of regard as souvenirs—until the court interfered. —Savannah News.

## NATIONAL PROHIBITION IS HARD UP AGAINST IT

Its Defeat Threatened by Apparently Harmless Denatured Wines and Cordials

The temperance forces in America are beginning to discover that national prohibition has no permanent terrors for the ingenuity of the devil of alcoholic drink. National prohibition is finding itself defeated on every hand. And it is threatened by the ordinary illicit distiller and bootlegger so much as by a new and subtle way of undermining the law. Within the past few weeks there have appeared on the market scores of non-alcoholic wines. These wines are made by the ordinary vintners process, fermentation and all. The alcohol is removed before the wines are offered for sale. And the method of removing the alcohol is very simple. You see, alcohol doesn't freeze. By freezing these beverages, the alcohol is readily taken out. The frozen product when thawed contains every element of the original beverage except the alcohol.

Now to restore these non-alcoholic wines to their original alcoholic state and make them just as intoxicating as of yore, it is only necessary to restore to them a small quantity of alcohol. Alcohol in small quantities is easily marketed and its vendors are not easily apprehended.

It only remains now for science to put the active principle of alcohol into a pill or a capsule and the fight for national prohibition will have to be waged all over again. And science, aided and abetted by the ingenuity of the devil himself, may be expected to find some way of providing a readily available and lawful "kick" in a small package that can be added to any of these denatured wines and cordials, restoring them to their original potency.

In meantime, moonshine stills flourish in the woods all round us and thousands of otherwise harmless citizens are brewing various alcoholic concoctions in the privacy of their own homes. Wherever there is a demand for booze, corn meal, molasses, raisins, prunes and red devil are at the disposal of amateur moonshiners.

### IN NEW QUARTERS

The First and Citizens National Bank is now occupying its new building, and the extensive remodeling and enlarging which have been going on for several months are now practically completed. In a short time this reliable long-established banking institution will have one of the finest banks in the State. It is better equipped than ever for the best sort of service to its many customers.

### "Pieces of Eight."

The piece of eight was the Spanish piastre or peso, now called a dollar, thus known throughout the Spanish main in the days of piracy, because it was divided into eight parts. It was a silver coin worth \$1 in the United States.

## SUGAR BEET MAY BE GROWN HERE

Experiments Show Successful Production on Pasquotank Farms

Samples of the first syrup made from sugar beets grown in Pasquotank county are being shown here this week by Grover W. Falls, County Agent. The beets were grown of the farm of J. P. Eves, near Weeksville, in lower Pasquotank. The beets grown on the Eves farm are from Michigan seed. The same seed planted in various types of soil in different parts of the county have produced gratifying results. The results of these experiments is the unqualified statement of Mr. Falls that the sugar beet can be of Mr. Falls that the sugar beet can be successfully grown in eastern North Carolina and should become a staple crop. The sugar beet is easy to grow, requiring little cultivation. It is easily and cheaply harvested. Syrup from the beet is obtained by slicing the beets and boiling them for one or two hours. The syrup is extracted from the cooked mass by pressing and straining. It has the color and appearance of sorghum or cane syrup and has a decidedly pleasant taste.

Mr. Falls will supply information to any interested farmer in this county and will aid in procuring seed.

## LAWYER AYDLETT LOST HIS TEMPER

Lost His Head When His Negro Servant Was Bound Over to Court

Attorney E. F. Aydlett of this city, lost his temper in the Recorder's Court here Tuesday morning when he failed to secure the acquittal of his handy man, Joe Willoughby, accused of robbing Mitchell's Department Store.

Attorneys for the State in the case against Willoughby asked that Willoughby be held for the Superior Court under a bond of \$500.

"Why don't you take him out and hang him?" exclaimed Mr. Aydlett, growing red in the face.

And turning to the defendant he said: "Never mind, Joe; I'll stand your bond, no matter what it is, and they'll not put you in jail now or later."

Mr. Aydlett does not usually defy the law with such a show of temper and his conduct created a distinct sensation in the court.

The State charges that Willoughby has systematically and for months robbed Mitchell's Department Store, having access to the store thru a door to a coal room connected with Aydlett's offices. O. F. Gilbert, proprietor of Mitchell's, estimates his losses at \$2,000 or more. Willoughby has been in Mr. Aydlett's employ for a number of years.

Willoughby was bound over under a \$500 bond.

### J. U. LAMBERT

J. U. Lambert, for many years superintendent of the Norfolk & Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Co., of this city, died at his old home in Clarksville, Ga. last Saturday.

Mr. Lambert had been physically unwell for several years and had lived much in the west and southwest in hopes of regaining his health. More than a year ago he left Elizabeth City for the last time. The telephone company here valued his services and so esteemed the man that his position was held open for him, in the hope that he would recover.

Mr. Lambert is survived by two brothers in this city, E. J. Lambert and W. R. Lambert. He is also survived by a wife and three sisters.

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## SAVINGS BANK BUYS BUILDING

Will Occupy S. R. Siff's Strategic Corner On Main Street

The Savings Bank & Trust Co., of Elizabeth City, once facetiously designated as "the little bank around the corner," is now to assume the role of "The Big Bank On the Corner." The Savings Bank & Trust Co. has purchased of E. F. Aydlett, the handsome three story brick building, corner of Main and Poindexter Sts. now occupied by the S. R. Siff Co. The purchase price was close to \$50,000. A handsome sum will be expended in remodeling the building to adapt it to banking purposes and many thousands of dollars more will be invested in modern banking fixtures and equipment.

The building in question is one of the handsomest business buildings in Elizabeth City and located on the best business corner in the city.

The Savings Bank & Trust Co. will not require the entire building. There are 4,600 feet of floor space on the ground floor alone and as much space on each of the two upper floors. By putting their directors' room on the mezzanine floor and using rooms on the third floor for stationary and storage, the bank will need only about two thirds of the first floor space. Part of the first floor on Main street and all of the second floor will be sublet to the S. R. Siff Co., who now occupy the entire building.

The Savings Bank & Trust Co. has been in need of larger quarters for several years. Negotiations for the building just acquired have been under way for many months. Some idea of the phenomenal growth of this bank is contained in a comparative statement of resources published elsewhere in this newspaper. On Sept. 30, 1905 its resources were only \$109,000. On Sept. 30, 1915 its resources were \$478,000, a remarkable growth, but not comparable with its statement of \$1,384,000 resources on Sept. 30, 1919.

Much of the marvelous growth of this bank is due to the tireless personal efforts and enterprise of its cashier, H. G. Kramer.

The Savings Bank & Trust Company was organized in 1903, with a capital stock of \$25,000.

In 1915 the capital stock was increased to \$40,000 when the Mercantile Bank was merged with the Savings Bank & Trust Company.

On July 1st, 1918 the capital stock was increased to \$100,000 and the present resources of the institution aggregate about one and a quarter million dollars.

Besides Mr. Kramer, the Cashier, the other officers of the Savings Bank & Trust Company are: P. H. Williams, President; E. F. Aydlett, Vice President; and W. H. Jennings, Assistant Cashier.

The directors are: E. F. Aydlett, L. S. Blades, H. E. Banks, J. W. Foreman, J. B. Flora, C. E. Kramer, W. T. Lov, J. T. McCabe, C. W. Newbern, L. Selig, A. Sawyer, J. H. White, P. H. Williams, J. Q. A. Wood, W. J. Woodley.

The Savings Bank & Trust Company expects to occupy its new quarters on or about Jan. 1, 1920.

## THE COW PUNCHER IS ANOTHER GOOD STORY

This Newspaper Secures Serial Rights to Robert J. C. Stead's New Masterpiece

THE INDEPENDENT has secured the serial rights to a new and fascinating serial story, The Cow Puncher, the first installment of which appears this week.

The author of The Cow Puncher is Robert J. C. Stead. This is his latest literary triumph and book reviewers everywhere have proclaimed it one of the best pieces of fiction of recent years. It is not only a good story, but carries with it a vein of wholesome philosophy that makes it more than an entertaining piece of light fiction.

Readers of this newspaper will follow the adventures of The Cow Puncher with increasing interest.

## A REAL ESTATE MARKET

This newspaper is the greatest real estate advertising medium in northeastern North Carolina. Many subscribers have told us they find the paper invaluable for the real estate advertising it contains. Many splendid farms are advertised in this week's issue.

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